

Whauwhaupaku *(Pseudopanax arboreus)*



Whauwhaupaku will be one of the first plants to establish in a newly regenerating forest. The long stalked leaves with large teeth along the margins usually come in sets of five, hence its other name Five Finger. Brown-purple hemispherical flowers at branch tips opening during winter.

Attractive, large, dense clusters of purplish-red to almost black berries ripening through spring and summer containing two seeds each.

A great friend to bees, providing pollen and nectar when other food sources are scarce.

Size

Up to 8m tall

Distribution & Habitat

Found throughout New Zealand in lowland forests. Will grow most anywhere and is known to establish itself in home gardens.

Species it attracts

The small fruits will be eaten by Kererū and the nectar from the flowers will attract Tūi and other nectar feeding birds.

Medicinal Properties

Used to treat eye infections.

Where to plant in the garden

A frequent component of secondary forest happy in partial shade and fast growing. Naturally occurring in abundance along streamside's and forest margins so moist ground will be fine but can tolerate drier conditions.



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